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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,811	07/15/2003	Ronald I. Hickland JR.	1237-0938	7657
26568 7590 04/25/2008 COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO, CUMMINGS & MEHLER LTD SUITE 2850 200 WEST ADAMS STREET CHICAGO, IL 60606				
EXAMINER CHAUDHRY, SAEED T				
ART UNIT 1792		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 04/25/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/619,811

**Applicant(s)**

HICKLAND ET AL.

**Examiner**

Saeed T. Chaudhry

**Art Unit**

1792

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2008.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4 and 11 is/are rejected.  
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 5-10, 13-19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claims 20, 23, 26, 29 and 30 have been canceled and claims 1-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-28 are pending. Of the above claim 12 has been withdrawn from consideration.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 2, 5-10, 13-19, 21-22, 24-25, and 27-28 objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2 and 14, claims 5 and 17, claims 6 and 18, claims 7 and 24, 8 and 13, 9 and 19, 10 and 25 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Since silica gel, soft pine wood dust are inherently dry material. Therefore, it read on the dry plasticizer. Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

Rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, has been withdrawn by the examiner.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) he has abandoned the invention.

(d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

(g) before the applicant's invention thereof the invention was made in this country by another who had not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed it. In determining priority of invention there shall be considered not only the respective dates of conception and reduction to practice of the invention, but also the reasonable diligence of one who was first to conceive and last to reduce to practice, from a time prior to conception by the other.

**Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by**

**Gesare.**

Gesare (2,690,581) disclose a method for cleaning a bowling ball by forming a dry plasticizer absorbent material, applying the dry plasticizer material to the bowling ball, allowing the plasticizer material to contact the outer surface of the bowling ball for a time period and removing the plasticizer material from the bowling ball.

In cleaning a bowling ball the bowler first sees that the coarse textured side 6 of the cloth is on the inside. If the cloth happens to have its fine or flannel-like textured side 8 out the bowler turns it inside out. The cloth is then laid down with its longitudinal slit 18 on top, and the longitudinal hemmed edges 9 or sides of the slit are then spread apart and the bowling ball 13 placed within the cloth and these longitudinal hemmed edges 9 brought together over the ball. The bowler then seizes, with both hands, the two handle straps 11 provided at the opposite ends of the cloth by the overlapping portions 11 of the transverse end hems 10. With these handles held in both hands the bowler then lifts the cloth and proceeds to roll the ball back and

forth by first lifting the right hand handle so as to cause the ball to roll down to the left hand end of the cloth and then lifting it by the left hand handle so as to cause the ball to roll back to the right hand end. This alternate lifting of the opposite ends of the cloth is continued until the ball has been cleaned to the satisfaction of the bowler. In so rolling back and forth the ball is in sliding contact with the inside of the cloth and it will particularly be noted that the weight of the ball tends to draw the sides of the cloth into firm contact with it so that a firm frictional contact is obtained between the ball and the cloth as it rolls along. Also as the ball rolls back and forth it passes the two groups of ribs 19, these ribs serving to facilitate the removal of any encrustations or strongly adherent matter on the bowling ball. After the ball has been cleaned to the satisfaction of the bowler the ball is removed through opening 18 between the longitudinal hemmed edges 9 of the cloth (see col. 3, line 41 through col. 4, line 3).

Since the reference discloses to clean the bowling ball with cloth, which has microfiber material. Therefore, the reference read on the dry plasticizer and anticipate the claimed process. Further, time period of up to 24 hours read any time period as claimed in claim 4.

*Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saeed T. Chaudhry whose telephone number is (571) 272-1298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.*

*If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Michael Barr, can be reached on (571)-272-1414. The fax phone number for non-final is (703)-872-9306.*

*When filing a FAX in Gp 1700, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.*

*Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.*

*Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published*

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*applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).*

***Saeed T. Chaudhry***  
***Patent Examiner***

***/Michael Barr/***  
***Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792***